UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1996
10 October 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General temporarily appoints Kofi Annan as Special Envoy to former Yugoslavia and NATO; Ismat Kittani to serve as Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping.

* UNPROFOR officials meet with Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb representatives in Sarajevo with view to securing implementation of cease-fire agreement.

* United Kingdom says it will convene Peace Implementation Conference for former Yugoslavia in London within weeks.

* Secretary-General says Rwanda still has long road to travel in search for reconciliation and recovery.

* Failure to uphold international law in one situation sets precedent for similar failure elsewhere, President of Cyprus tells General Assembly.

* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stresses need for full implementation of Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States.

* Haiti tells General Assembly it is irreversibly committed to democracy, but political progress requires sustainable development.

* Liberia says its people will emerge from years of war stronger and more united, with national identity taking precedence over tribal ties.

* Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs holds new round of talks with Foreign Minister of Myanmar at Headquarters.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to temporarily appoint Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan as his Special Envoy to the former

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Yugoslavia and also to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In a letter to the President of the Security Council, he said he had acceded to Special Representative Yasushi Akashi's request for reassignment in view of the progress being made regarding the diplomatic and military situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General said he had taken that decision after careful consideration, and taking into account the critical period ahead for United Nations operations in the area. In conjunction with the temporary appointment of Mr. Annan, which will become effective on 1 November, Senior Adviser Ismat Kittani will serve as Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. Mr. Akashi will assume the post of Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General.

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The cease-fire recently agreed to by the Bosnian parties did not take effect today because utility supplies had not been fully restored to Sarajevo as required. However, a United Nations spokesman expressed hope that the fighting would soon cease, as electricity supplies had been at least partially restored and the gas main had been reopened. United Nations officials were scheduled to meet with representatives of the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs at Sarajevo airport to assess the situation.

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Mr. Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the decision by the Government of the United Kingdom to convene a Peace Implementation Conference in London in the coming weeks. He said the Conference would make a valuable contribution to international efforts, including those of the United Nations, to restore peace and stability to the former Yugoslavia.

The Conference will focus on practical issues related to the implementation of a peace agreement, and form part of the process involving proximity talks and a peace conference.

* * *

While Rwanda has made progress in overcoming the carnage and chaos of 1994, it still has a long road to travel in its search for reconciliation and recovery, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 7 October, he said the damage done to Rwanda's society and psyche by last year's events had been brutal and profound. Recent crises created by the expulsion of Rwandan refugees from Zaire and the killings of refugees near Gisenyi underlined the fragility of the recovery process.

Sustainable recovery was possible only in conditions of genuine peace and stability, the Secretary-General stressed. It was essential that those responsible for atrocities be brought to justice so as to put an end to the prevailing culture of impunity. He hoped that the International Tribunal

would soon commence its proceedings and that substantial progress would be made in the installation of an effective national judiciary. At the same time, the underlying political causes of the refugee problem must be addressed in a process of genuine national reconciliation.

The Secretary-General noted that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) would expire on 8 December. It was now time for the Government of Rwanda and the international community to seriously consider the future role of the United Nations in the country. Meanwhile, in view of the Organization's financial crisis, the Special Representative for Rwanda was studying, in conjunction with the Government, the possibility of a very substantial reduction in the Mission's troop strength.

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The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, told the General Assembly today that reducing forces and armaments could not alone guarantee international security. However, it could reduce the risk of conflict and contribute to confidence-building and conflict resolution. He reminded the Assembly of his proposal for the complete demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus; the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation forces; the disbanding of the National Guard; and the handing over of all arms to the custody of the United Nations. That proposal not only reflected good intentions but also the spirit of the times. Unfortunately, it had been rejected by Turkey.

Instead of complying with repeated Security Council and Assembly resolutions, the Turkish occupation forces were increasing their strength, the President continued. That not only posed a serious threat to regional security, but also a challenge to the authority of the United Nations. He also expressed concern about the massive violation of the human rights of persons evicted from their homes by the Turkish forces. "We must remember that failure to uphold international law and respect for human rights in one situation sets a precedent for similar failure elsewhere, with often catastrophic consequences," he concluded.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Alpian Allen, told the Assembly that several islands in the Caribbean region had been severely ravaged by storms and hurricanes less than one month ago. He expressed grave concern about the vulnerability of such States, and stressed the need for full implementation of the Programme of Action agreed to at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In the spirit of Caribbean brotherhood, the entire region had come to the support of those affected. However, further external assistance was crucial.

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The Minister also expressed concern about the future of the Caribbean banana industry. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and other banana producing countries of the Windward Islands accounted for only 3 per cent of world trade in the commodity. However, powerful multinational companies which controlled over 80 per cent of the market were seeking to reverse the special arrangements under the Lome Agreement. The multinational companies must not pursue profits at the expense of small island States struggling to maintain democracy. He warned that destruction of the Caribbean banana industry would create economic and social havoc would have severe repercussions at the international level.

* * *

Yesterday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Haiti, Claudette Werleigh, thanked the international community for assisting in achieving peace and political stability in her country. With the support of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), the Haitian Government had guaranteed freedom of association and expression and was holding municipal and legislative elections. It had also established the National Commission on Truth and Justice to investigate crimes committed during the coup.

Haiti was irreversibly committed to democracy, the Foreign Minister told the General Assembly. However, there could be no viable democracy without sustainable development. In that regard, the Haitian Government attached great importance to education and believed that improved sharing of national wealth would lead to stability. She expressed concern about the situation of refugees and opposed their forced repatriation. She went on to say that the profitable trade in conventional arms was responsible for conflicts around the world.

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Liberia's Foreign Minister, Momolu Sackor Sirleaf, told the Assembly that the peace process in his country was irreversible. He said the Abuja Agreement was expected to usher in a new dawn for Liberia. Unlike previous agreements, it provided for a six-man collective Presidency comprising leaders of the principal warring parties and three civilian representatives. "The very fact that the present collective Presidency is functioning and deliberating with unanimity of purpose is reason to celebrate," he added.

The Foreign Minister welcomed the decision to convene a pledging conference at Headquarters on 27 October for the demobilization and reconstruction of Liberia, as well as for assistance to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Liberia was in urgent need of substantial assistance from the international community, particularly for the rehabilitation of children traumatized by war, the reintegration of former combatants into society, and the revival of the private sector. He believed that Liberians would emerge from years of war a stronger and more united

people, with national identity taking precedence over tribal or ethnic identity.

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A new round of talks is currently under way at Headquarters between the Foreign Minister of Myanmar, U Ohn Gyaw, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Alvaro de Soto, who is representing the Secretary-General. The talks are being held in the context of the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in the implementation of resolutions on Myanmar. Previous rounds of talks were held in Yangon in February and August.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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11 October 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* As General Assembly concludes general debate, Democratic People's Republic of Korea stresses need for new Korean peace arrangement with United States.

* UNPROFOR Chief of Mission continues efforts to secure implementation of cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* Security Council approves Secretary-General's arrangements for remainder of current UNCRO mandate; notes negotiations on Eastern Slavonia are ongoing.

* MINUGUA says Guatemalan soldiers violated right to life by intentionally firing on civilians in returnee community on 5 October.

* Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in message for Natural Disaster Reduction Day, calls for more investment in local capacities to prevent disasters.

* Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs concludes latest round of talks with Foreign Minister of Myanmar.

* Changes in world economic structure require new strategy for development, Japan tells Economic and Financial Committee.

* United Nations to hold two-day Conference on Public Administration and Social Development in Stockholm next week.

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The top priority on any agenda for peace, security and national reconciliation on the Korean peninsula must be the establishment of a new peace arrangement, according to the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Choi Su Hon. Speaking on the last day of the General Assembly's general debate, he said the outdated system of the Korean armistice should be replaced with an arrangement between his country and the United States, which was primarily responsible for peace on the peninsula. That could not be delayed any longer in view of the trend towards

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peace and detente and in the context of the Agreed Framework between the two countries.

Once legal and institutional mechanisms for such a peace agreement were in place, the tension on the Korean peninsula would be defused dramatically, the Vice-Minister continued. That, in turn, would facilitate smooth implementation of the inter-Korean agreement and help stabilize the situation in North-East Asia and the Pacific. When the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States worked together with mutual trust, they could resolve remaining issues. That had been proved by the resolution of the so-called "nuclear issue" on the Korean peninsula, about which the world community had once been deeply concerned.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman today expressed hope that the cease-fire recently agreed to by the Bosnian parties would soon come into effect. The Bosnian Government had indicated that it was prepared to issue orders for the cease-fire to start one minute after midnight. However, the Bosnian Serbs -- who had been prepared to issue cease-fire orders for the last two nights -- said they needed time to check arrangements. The Chief of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Antonio Pedauye, met with the Serbs in Pale today.

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The Security Council has approved the Secretary-General's arrangements for the remainder of the current mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) pending, in the case of Eastern Slavonia, the outcome of the ongoing negotiations on the subject.

In a report dated 29 September, the Secretary-General set out six main tasks for UNCRO, most of which had been identified in resolution 981 (1995): performing the functions envisaged in the 1994 Cease-fire Agreement between Croatia and the Serb authorities in Sector East; facilitating the implementation of relevant sections of the 1994 Economic Agreement; facilitating the implementation of relevant Council resolutions; monitoring the border between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at crossings in Sector East; monitoring the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula; and reporting on military incidents in the vicinity of the border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

The United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) has drawn preliminary conclusions from its investigation into an incident on 5 October which left 11 civilians dead and more than 30 injured. It determined that a patrol of 26 Guatemalan soldiers had seriously violated the right to life by intentionally firing upon members of a returnee

community in the Alta Verapaz region. There was no evidence that the members of the community were armed.

MINUGUA said the response to the incident of the former Guatemalan Defence Minister -- justifying the action and exonerating those responsible for it -- must be corrected by the new authorities in the Ministry. If not corrected, the response would constitute a serious obstacle to the State's obligation to investigate the incident and punish those responsible.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, today called for more investment in local capacities to prevent disasters. In a statement on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, he said individuals and communities all over the world had enormous potential to provide protection from disasters. He noted that the theme of this year's Day was "Women and Children -- Key to Prevention".

The General Assembly had proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000) to provide a framework for pulling together scientific knowledge and technical know-how, Mr. Hansen continued. Proper planning, prevention and preparation benefitted individuals, communities and national economies. The best emergency management was when a disaster was avoided.

Mr. Hansen urged donors to support the efforts of disaster-prone developing countries and United Nations programmes for disaster reduction. He called attention to the "indispensable bridge" between disaster management, natural resource protection and sustainable development.

* * *

The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Alvaro de Soto, met yesterday at Headquarters with the Foreign Minister of Myanmar, U Ohn Gyaw. Their discussions focused on the main issues reflected in General Assembly resolution 49/197, which gave the Secretary-General his mandate in relation to Myanmar. As requested by the resolution, a report to the Assembly is being prepared.

* * *

The economic structure of the world has been changing and a new strategy for development will have to be pursued on that basis, the representative of Japan told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) yesterday. As the Committee continued its debate on the world economic situation, he said the Japanese Government would be prepared to increase its official development assistance and contributions to the United Nations system if the Organization's development activities became more effective.

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The representative of Thailand said that some Member States saw the United Nations as an instrument that served their own national policies, and tended to focus their attention on questions of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Others saw the United Nations as the only viable global organization, whose resources could be better used to fill the gap in what was required for national development. The United Nations could be both, he stressed, as the two requirements were not mutually exclusive.

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The United Nations will hold a two-day Conference on Public Administration and Social Development in Stockholm, Sweden, next week. Organized with the support of the Swedish Government, the Conference is part of the follow-up to last March's World Summit for Social Development. It is being held in preparation for a meeting on Public Administration and Development during a resumed session of the General Assembly in New York next April.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council expresses satisfaction at progress in implementation of Lusaka Protocol, but remains concerned about delays in Angolan peace process.

* Security Council welcomes entry into force of Bosnian cease-fire agreement; expresses concern at reports of population movements and ethnic cleansing in certain areas.

* General Assembly gives observer status to Central American Integration System; acts to strengthen ties with Economic Cooperation Organization.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee continues general debate on Secretary-General's proposed budget for 1996-1997.

* Disarmament and International Security Committee to begin general debate on range of disarmament initiatives next week.

* Human Rights Committee to consider reports from United Kingdom, Estonia, Sweden and Afghanistan during fifty-fifth session.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed satisfaction at the progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. In a statement by its President, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), the Council said it was encouraged by the recent meetings between the President of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi. Those meetings provided important reassurance to the international community. It also welcomed the ongoing deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) support units, and stressed the importance of an independent UNAVEM radio.

However, the Council expressed concern at delays in the peace process, particularly in respect of quartering of UNITA and the rapid reaction police, demining, disarmament, the return of the Angolan Armed Forces to barracks and the formation of the new armed forces, as well as the repatriation of mercenaries. It underscored the peril that might result from further delays.

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It also expressed deep concern at allegations of renewed laying of mines and demanded that all parties refrain from such actions.

The Council emphasized that continuing cooperation between the parties was essential if a sustained cessation of hostilities were to take hold. In that regard, it called on the parties to refrain from troop movements or military activities that might create tension or lead to renewed hostilities. It further emphasized that post-peace-keeping elements could make an important contribution to a viable long-term peace. It noted the linkage between political and economic well-being and the need to ensure that displaced people and refugees were able to return to their places of origin.

* * *

In a second statement by President Gambari, the Council welcomed the entry into force of the cease-fire agreement between the Bosnian parties of 5 October. It demanded that all parties fully comply with the agreement and refrain from any military activity that could jeopardize the peace process. The Council expressed deep concern at any operation that provoked large-scale movements of population detrimental to the peace process and a final and fair settlement. It was particularly concerned about reports related to the movements of the displaced population in the areas of Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad.

The Council reiterated its condemnation of all practices of ethnic cleansing, and demanded their immediate cessation. It urged the Bosnian parties to respect fully the rights of all communities, including their right to remain where they were or to return to their homes in safety. The Council was particularly concerned about reports of ethnic cleansing in the Banja Luka and Prijedor areas, especially about reports that non-Serb men and boys of draft age were being taken away by Bosnian Serb and other paramilitary forces. It demanded that those persons be immediately released.

* * *

Acting without a vote, the General Assembly today invited the Central American Integration System to participate in its work as an observer. In another resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, to promote cooperation between the secretariats of the two Organizations. It further urged increased consultation between the United Nations system and the Economic Cooperation Organization in the attainment of their objectives.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Secretary-General to leave New York this weekend for six-day visit to Haiti, Argentina and Colombia; will attend Ibero-American Summit Meeting and Non-Aligned Movement Conference.

* Bosnian cease-fire continues to hold despite firing incidents in some areas; UNPROFOR clears road from Sarajevo to Gorazde of mines.

* United Nations to pay $150 million to troop-contributing countries after receiving significant payments of peace-keeping arrears.

* Chairman of Special Commission says Iraq has not been complying with Security Council resolutions; stresses need for full disclosure in relation to biological weapons programme.

* Secretary-General expresses disappointment at lack of progress towards ban on land-mines at Conventional Weapons Review Conference.

* International Law Commission to present final draft code of crimes against peace and security to General Assembly next year.

* United Nations to observe International Day for Eradication of Poverty on 17 October.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will depart this weekend for a six-day tour that will take him to Haiti, Argentina and Colombia, a United Nations spokesman announced today. He is expected back in New York on 20 October.

In Haiti, the Secretary-General will participate in a ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of President Aristide's return. He will also visit the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and attend briefings on the Mission's work. In Argentina, Mr. Boutros-Ghali will attend the Ibero-American Summit Meeting. In Colombia, he will participate in the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement.

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The Bosnian cease-fire continued to hold today despite firing incidents around Doboj, the Ozren salient and Gradacac, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). There were reports of intense military activity in north-western Bosnia but the Force was unable to confirm them. United Nations military observers last night entered Sanski Most, on the north-western confrontation line, at the invitation of the Bosnian Army. They confirmed that the town was quiet, although there was some firing to the north and east.

The Joint Commission consisting of UNPROFOR and representatives of the Bosnian parties is scheduled to meet at the chief-of-staff level in Sarajevo on Monday to discuss arrangements for implementation of the cease-fire. The Bosnian capital remained quiet today, with the Force enjoying complete freedom of movement. Meanwhile, French peace-keepers demined the road to Gorazde, opening it to all but heavy vehicles.

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The United Nations is to pay $150 million to troop-contributing States, having recently received significant payments of arrears to the peace-keeping budget, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Joseph E. Connor, told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday. He said the Secretary-General had decided on that action trusting that the reimbursements would help Member States that had faced the most severe problems due to the suspension of payments last May.

The United Nations had received a total of $100 million from the Russian Federation, the United States and Brazil, Mr. Connor continued. Nevertheless, it would still owe troop-contributors some $900 at the end of the month and $1.1 billion by year's end. Although around 30 States had paid various amounts to the regular budget in the last few weeks, the Organization's borrowing from peace-keeping would reach $200 million in November unless additional payments were received.

* * *

The Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus, today said that Iraq had not been cooperating with the Commission in line with Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions. He told correspondents at Headquarters that Iraq had kept secret a major weapons programme which had been developed and put into effect before the Gulf War.

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The Iraqi programme involved the large-scale production of biological warfare agents, Mr. Ekeus continued. Those agents had been put into delivery systems -- bombs and the warheads of long-range missiles -- which had then been deployed. In addition, Iraq had indigenously developed and produced Scud-type missiles and successfully flight-tested them. That made it very difficult for the Commission to ascertain the size of Iraq's arsenal.

Iraq had claimed to have unilaterally destroyed all biological agents and other prohibited items, he went on. However, it had also stated that no documentary evidence of such destruction existed. Members of the Security Council did not trust the Iraqi statements and the matter required further investigation. All of the Council members had expressed strong support for the work of the Commission, he added.

* * *

The Secretary-General today expressed disappointment at the lack of progress towards a ban on anti-personnel land-mines at the Review Conference of States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. A United Nations spokesman said it appeared that the three-week Conference would end today without substantial agreement on the issue, even though compromise proposals had been put forward.

Land-mines took an enormous human toll every year, primarily of innocent civilians, he noted. In addition, mine-clearing was a major and expensive component of many United Nations peace-keeping operations. Those who supported a ban must continue their efforts at future intergovernmental meetings.

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The International Law Commission is expected to present a final draft code of crimes against the peace and security of mankind to the General Assembly next year, Commission Chairman Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao told the Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday. He did so while introducing the chapters of the Commission's report dealing with the draft code, State responsibility and international responsibility for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law.

In considering the draft code, the Commission decided to concentrate on four international crimes -- aggression, genocide, systematic or mass violations of human rights, and exceptionally serious war crimes. Other crimes were originally identified in the first reading of the draft --

international terrorism; illicit traffic in narcotic drugs; intervention; colonial domination and other forms of alien domination; apartheid; the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries; and willful and severe damage to the environment.

* * *

The United Nations will observe the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty next Tuesday with a ceremony honouring victims of extreme poverty and those who work alongside them. The ceremony, which will be held on the United Nations Visitors' Plaza, is being co-sponsored by the International Movement/Fourth World.

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UNITED NATIONS

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General attends Ibero-American Summit in Argentina; meets with Haitian President and United States Vice President in Haiti.

* ACC decides to establish four inter-agency groups to assist in follow-up to major United Nations conferences, UNDP Administrator announces.

* Cease-fire continues to hold in Bosnia and Herzegovina despite small-scale fighting around north-western confrontation line.

* UNHCR warns institution of asylum is under threat worldwide; calls for new initiatives to protect refugees during flight and exile abroad.

* General Assembly seeks closer ties between United Nations and Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

* Secretary-General extends appointment of Representative in Cambodia for another six months.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today attended the fifth Summit Conference of Ibero-American Heads of State and Government at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. In his statement to the Conference, he said regional associations were essential to international democratization. They enabled new actors to emerge on the world stage, kept open channels of communication and linked all levels of international affairs. He also stressed the importance of democracy in education for development.

The Secretary-General was in Haiti over the weekend. After arriving in Port-au-Prince on Saturday, he visited the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and was briefed by Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi on the Mission's work. He later met with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and discussed, among other things, the forthcoming presidential elections, the role of United Nations agencies in Haiti and the need for continuing economic assistance from the international community.

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For information media—not an official record

On Sunday, the Secretary-General attended a ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of President Aristide's return to Haiti. Before leaving the country, he met with United States Vice President Al Gore. They discussed the question of a transitional period after UNMIH leaves Haiti and the financial crisis of the United Nations.

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The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) has agreed on the need to establish four inter-agency groups to assist in the follow-up to recent major United Nations conferences, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James Gustave Speth, said today. He told correspondents at Headquarters that those groups would focus on particular objectives emerging from the conferences. They would bring United Nations agencies and programmes together around common themes and provide coordinated assistance to individual countries.

The first inter-agency group would seek to organize a system to provide basic social services for all, particularly the poor, and would be chaired by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), Mr. Speth continued. The second group would focus on creating income-generation opportunities for the poor and assist in attaining full employment and sustainable livelihoods. It would be chaired by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The third group would promote a broad enabling environment for the achievement of sustainable human development, he went on. It would deal with such issues as adjustment, debt, finance for development, access to technology and social integration, and be chaired by the World Bank. The fourth group would seek to launch a special initiative on the advancement and empowerment of women, as soon as the General Assembly had considered the Beijing Platform for Action.

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The Bosnian cease-fire continued to hold today despite small-scale fighting around the Sanski Most and Bosanska Otoka areas of the north-western confrontation line, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, the situation was expected to improve as the parties became more comfortable with their new positions. Some military activity was also reported in Sarajevo, but most firing incidents there were assessed to be "celebratory fire" -- people firing their weapons into the air.

Meanwhile, the Central Joint Commission consisting of military leaders of the Bosnian parties and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) met again today in Sarajevo, the spokesman noted. It dealt with two critical

issues: delineation of the confrontation lines and monitoring of the cease-fire.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, today warned that the institution of asylum was under threat worldwide. Addressing the annual meeting of the UNHCR's 50-member Executive Committee, she called for new initiatives aimed at prevention and protection in countries of origin, as well as during flight and exile abroad.

"Many countries are openly admitting their weariness with large numbers of refugees ... and are blatantly closing their borders," she said. "Others are more insidiously introducing laws and procedures which effectively deny admission to their territory."

She went on to say that the UNHCR's dual mandate to protect refugees and find lasting solutions to their problems was being severely tested by the global decline of asylum. She stressed the need for action to enable countries to receive refugees and initiatives to solve refugee problems and, where possible, to prevent them.

* * *

The General Assembly today invited the Secretary-General to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation. In a resolution adopted without a vote, it also requested specialized United Nations agencies and programmes to work with the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Agency to promote such cooperation.

A representative of the Agency for Culture and Technical Cooperation said it had sent 25 missions to observe elections in various member countries. He added that the United Nations and the Agency could strengthen their cooperation in the area of electoral assistance.

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The Secretary-General has extended the appointment of Benny Widyono as his Representative in Cambodia for another six months. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 13 October, he said he was taking that action in response to the wish of the Cambodian Government. He noted that Mr. Widyono would continue to be assisted by one military leader in carrying out his mandate in accordance with the spirit and principles of the Paris Agreements.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council welcomes progress made by Rwandan Government in reconciliation process; reaffirms important role played by UNAMIR in Rwanda and subregion.

* General Assembly takes up Secretary-General's report on work of Organization; United States introduces draft resolution aimed at reducing volume of paperwork.

* Struggle against poverty must be priority for all governments and peoples, Secretary-General says in message for International Day for Eradication of Poverty.

* Secretary-General travels from Argentina to Colombia to participate in Non-Aligned Movement Conference.

* Conventional Weapons Review Conference approves new Protocol banning use or transfer of blinding laser weapons; States parties to continue discussing land-mine issue next year.

* * *

The Security Council today welcomed progress made by the Government of Rwanda in the reconciliation process, including the integration of more than 2,000 troops of the former Rwandan Government Forces (RGF) into the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA). In a statement by its President, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), the Council called on the Government to intensify its contacts with all sectors of Rwandan society, except with those directly responsible for genocide. It reiterated its concern at reports of continuing cross-border infiltrations from neighbouring countries which had a destabilizing effect within Rwanda.

The Council again called on all States to act in accordance with the conclusion of the Summit Meeting held in Nairobi in January and the recommendations by the Regional Conference held in Bujumbura in February. It welcomed recent efforts to improve relations among States in the region, which should help pave the way for a Regional Conference on Peace, Security and Development. In that regard, the Council supported the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region.

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The Council reaffirmed the important role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in the country and the subregion. It underlined its commitment to UNAMIR, which assisted the Rwandan Government in facilitating the voluntary return and resettlement of refugees and had made available its engineering and logistics capacity. UNAMIR could effectively implement its current mandate only if it had an adequate force level and sufficient means. The Council was ready to study carefully any recommendations that the Secretary-General might make on the issue of force reductions in relation to the fulfillment of the Mission's mandate.

Genuine reconciliation and stability in the region could not be attained without the safe, voluntary and organized return of all Rwandan refugees, the Council said. It underlined the need for an effective national judiciary, and further underlined that the International Tribunal should begin its proceedings as soon as possible. The Council reaffirmed its concern at the appalling situation in Rwanda's prisons. It called on the international community to continue its assistance in that regard, and underlined the importance of parallel action by the Rwandan Government to restore the judicial system.

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The General Assembly today began its consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, and took up a related draft resolution. By the terms of that draft, documents originating in the Secretariat for submission to the Assembly would, except in special cases, be limited to 16 pages or less. The Secretary-General would be requested to present oral, rather than written, reports where appropriate and to provide an oral estimate of the cost of any document or report requested by Member States when an intergovernmental body adopted a resolution containing such a request.

Introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the United States said it was necessary to reverse the tide of documents flooding the Organization. In the current biennium, it would cost $295 million to produce documents in New York and Geneva. The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) had special competence in the matters addressed by the draft resolution, and therefore the United States would propose to refer the text to it.

* * *

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty reflects the growing recognition that poverty is a global concern requiring global attention, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a message marking the observance of the Day, he said the struggle against poverty must be a central priority for governments and peoples everywhere. That priority

possessed more than a moral or ethical dimension -- it was a social, political and economic imperative for all humankind.

Non-governmental organizations, such as the ATD Fourth World Movement, had a vital role to play in that struggle, he continued. Such organizations reached out to people living in poverty, to the disadvantaged and marginalized, giving them a voice and ensuring their participation in economic, social and political life. The United Nations was ready to cooperate with non-governmental organizations, helping to ensure a common effort at all levels -- local, State, regional and international.

"On this Day, I call for solidarity among all the world's nations and peoples," the Secretary-General went on to say. "Only by strengthening the bonds of human solidarity can we free ourselves of the inhuman scourge of poverty and assure ourselves of a brighter future."

* * *

The Secretary-General today travelled from Argentina to Colombia, where he will participate in the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement. Before leaving San Carlos de Bariloche, he had a number of bilateral meetings at the Summit Conference of Ibero-American Heads of State and Government.

* * *

States parties to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons have approved a new Protocol banning the use or transfer of blinding laser weapons. They concluded their Review Conference in Vienna without agreement on a revised protocol on anti-personnel mines, but agreed to continue discussing land-mine questions next year.

The President of the Conference, Johan Molander (Sweden), said the adoption of the Protocol on blinding lasers was an important development in international law. The text prohibits the use against the naked eye, or the naked eye with corrective glasses, of all laser weapons which have blinding as one of their combat functions. It also prohibits transferring them to any State or non-State entity.

There was general agreement during the Conference that a strengthened land-mine Protocol should lead to a total ban on land-mines, and that detectable mines and self-destructing mines were preferable from a humanitarian standpoint. However, negotiations stalled around definitions of "detectability" and "self-destructing" mechanisms, and the amount of time that States parties should have to bring their mine stocks into line with the new specifications. * *** *

UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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18 October 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General says Non-Aligned Movement must continue fight for economic and social development; meets with Presidents of Algeria, Colombia and Philippines.

* General Assembly adopts Declaration to mark fiftieth anniversary of end of Second World War.

* United Nations urges Croatian parties not to resort to force to resolve differences after cancellation of talks on Eastern Slavonia.

* Permanent Security Council members should pay surcharge for peace-keeping operations, Australia tells Administrative and Budgetary Committee.

* United States tells Disarmament and International Security Committee it wants comprehensive nuclear-test ban by April 1996.

* Rising crime and violence threaten course of development, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee is told.

* Economic and Financial Committee hears call by developing countries for innovative approaches to development financing.

* Legal Committee concludes discussion of draft code of crimes against peace and security of mankind.

* FAO to begin biennial Conference in Rome on Friday; will examine global state of food and agriculture.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said the Non-Aligned movement must continue the fight for economic and social development. Addressing the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement in Cartagena, Colombia, the Secretary-General said economic and social progress would not attain its full significance unless it was accompanied by an effort to democratize international life. Democratization was an imperative not only within States but also between States and in all

(more)

For information media—not an official record

the power centres of international society. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said it was essential that the international order of future be more attentive to the diversity of the world.

The Secretary-General also had meetings with President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria, President Ernesto Samper Pizano of Colombia and President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to attend a dinner hosted by the President of Colombia tonight. He was expected to leave Cartagena tomorrow for New York.

* * *

The General Assembly today adopted a Declaration commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The Declaration adopted without a vote called on States to redouble their efforts to put an end to all conflicts and to save future generations from the scourge of new wars and racial hatred. It honoured the tens of millions of people who perished in that War as well as those who fought against dictatorship, oppression, racism and aggression. States were called upon to reaffirm their commitment to refrain from the use or threat of use of force against any State and to focus their efforts on creating the conditions for the general progress of humankind in larger freedom.

* * *

The United Nations today urged the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs not to resort to force to resolve their differences, after talks on the question of Eastern Slavonia were cancelled. The Organization called on both sides to fully commit themselves to a negotiated settlement, rather than choose a military option which would only cause more human suffering.

The Croatian Government's chief negotiator, Hrvoje Sarinic, was reported to have rejected the talks because of a dispute over where to meet. Mr. Sarinic told the press that Croatia was sticking to its deadline of 30 November for the completion of peace talks. He warned that if there were no serious negotiations, "other means" would be used to establish Croatian sovereignty over Eastern Slavonia.

* * *

Permanent members of the Security Council should pay a substantial surcharge in addition to their assessments for peace-keeping operations due to their special roles in international peace and security, the Australian representative told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary)

yesterday. Also speaking for Canada and New Zealand, he said the peace-keeping scale of assessments should continue to be based on its regular budget counterpart. Both the "floor" and the "ceiling" rates of the regular budget should be abolished.

The Australian representative made those comments as the Fifth Committee discussed how United Nations costs should be divided among Member States. Also yesterday, the Committee deliberated on the prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan, the proposed $2.69 billion budget for 1996-1997 and the pattern of conferences. The new format has been designed with a view to enhancing strategic planning and linking objectives and the allocation of resources among budget programmes.

* * *

The United States is committed to the completion of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban treaty by April 1996, according to the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. As the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) continued its general debate, he said the world's nuclear arsenals had been more than sufficiently tested. "Now it is we who are being tested," he added.

The Director stressed the need to dismantle the excess armament of the cold war. The United States continued to dismantle up to 2,000 nuclear weapons a year, the highest rate that technical limitations would permit. He expressed strong support for a ban on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes and called on all nations to join the moratorium on anti-personnel land-mines.

The representative of China told the Committee that his country would cease its nuclear tests once a comprehensive test-ban treaty entered into force. However, such a treaty should not ban peaceful nuclear explosions or in any way restrict the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It should employ an effective international monitoring system for verification, and must provide for on-site inspection.

* * *

Rising levels of crime and violence threaten the course of development, peace and security, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday. As the Committee began its consideration of crime and criminal justice and international drug control, he said the threat to development demanded a commensurate response by the international community.

(more)

Speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, the representative of Ecuador said the struggle against drugs needed to be global. He called for a renewed international commitment to eliminating the demand, production, supply and illicit distribution of drugs. Malaysia said the drug problem should be addressed from the standpoint of reducing both supply and demand, stressing the need for effective treatment of addicts.

* * *

Developing countries yesterday called for innovative approaches to resolve the problems of financing of development. As the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) began considering the subject and the question of external debt, the Philippines, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said the international community should adopt a common set of principles for debt reduction. He also called for a thorough examination as to why the "peace dividend" had not led to additional financial flows to developing countries.

The representative of Spain, speaking for the European Union, said a commitment from debtor countries to implement and pursue sound economic policies remained the key element in any strategy to restore viability. The evolving international debt strategy was increasingly contributing to a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries.

* * *

The majority of States in the International Law Commission favour the development of an exhaustive codification of crimes against the peace and security of mankind, the representative of Iran told the Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday as it concluded its discussion of draft code. Unfortunately, he said, the Special Rapporteur had acceded to the view of a small minority of States.

The representative of the United Kingdom said that the core crimes against the peace and security of mankind identified by the Commission bore a striking resemblance to those that were emerging as core crimes in the statute for an international criminal court. If negotiations on a court were well advanced, there was no need for a code.

* * *

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will begin an 11-day Conference to decide its programme of work and budget in Rome on Friday. The conference will examine the global state of food and agriculture and receive a major report on that topic. It is also expected to adopt a code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

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The biennial Conference is FAO's supreme governing body. It brings together agriculture ministers and senior officials from the Organization's 170 members. The Conference will be preceded and followed by sessions of the FAO Council, the interim governing body.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General holds discussions with leaders and senior officials attending the Non-Aligned Summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

* Croatian President says his army will not attack Serb-held Eastern Slavonia while peace talks are continuing.

* General Michael Jackson of the United Kingdom is to succeed General Rupert Smith as new Commander of UNPROFOR.

* Prosecutor for Rwanda Tribunal confirms first indictments are to be issued before end of year.

* High Commissioner for Human Rights calls for a new partnership between men and women based on sharing of power and of responsibilities.

* UNESCO Director-General calls for education and culture of peace at fifth Ibero-American Summit.

* WHO establishes rapid-response unit to combat growing world-wide threat of emerging diseases.

* * *

In Cartagena, Colombia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been holding discussions with leaders at the summit conference of the Non-Aligned Movement. A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General met with the Foreign Minister of Libya, Omar Mustafa Muntasser. It was reported that they discussed the relevant Security Council resolutions, including the sanctions in the hope that progress could be made toward a solution of those problems.

The Secretary-General later had a meeting with President Soeharto of Indonesia, the outgoing Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. According to the spokesman, they discussed issues relating to East Timor in the context of the talks which would take place in London on 16 January 1996 and the financial situation of the United Nations.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Discussions at a meeting between the Secretary-General and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, focussed on the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Pakistan's troop contributions to the United Nations, peacekeeping in that country and the situation in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kashmir.

The Secretary-General left Cartagena for New York Thursday morning.

* * *

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has said his army would not attack Serb-held Eastern Slavonia while peace talks were in progress in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The assurance comes amid rising fears that Croatia was planning an imminent invasion. Earlier this week, United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher had warned against military force, saying it would be "very costly" to Croatia and its desire to join western institutions.

In an interview with United Nations Radio in the former Yugoslavia, President Tudjman's spokeswoman Natasa Rajakovic said Croatia "would do nothing to disrupt the peace process in Bosnia". She said Croatia was for attempts to solve this problem peacefully, and the deadline determined was the end of the current mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). She said Croatia had no intention of jeopardizing the present United States-led peace initiative.

Meanwhile, there was little change in the military situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The cease-fire was continuing to hold in general, but fighting was going on in the northwest, according to a spokesman for the organization. United Nations peace-keepers were still having their freedom of movement restricted in the area, mainly by government forces, and so did not have detailed information on the fighting.

* * *

General Michael Jackson of the United Kingdom is to succeed General Rupert Smith as Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) a United Nations spokesman announced today. General Jackson is to take up his new position later this year.

* * *

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has confirmed that the first indictment would be issued before the end of the year and that further indictments would be issued in the following months. In a statement today, Richard Goldstone said the indictments would reflect the policy of investigating and indicting the persons who held positions of authority in relation to the mass killings in Rwanda in mid-1994. The

(more)

indictments would be presented for confirmation to a judge of the Tribunal at the seat of the Tribunal in Arusha.

According to the Prosecutor, significant progress had been made recently in the establishment and work of the Rwanda Tribunal, despite the financial constraints imposed on it. Work was able to proceed by drawing from the Trust Fund of the Tribunal in order to meet the operating expenses. By the end of October it was expected that the staff of the Tribunal would total more than 50 investigators and attorneys.

* * *

A new partnership between men and women, based on the sharing of power and of responsibilities and ensuring the active role of women in both public and private sectors, should be the principal objective, Jose Ayala Lasso, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said as he opened the Human Rights Committee's fifty-fifth session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Human Rights Committee exchanged views on its draft general comment on article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That discussion was within the framework of the right of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs through elections and referendums.

Article 25 of the Covenant recognizes and protects the right of every citizen to take part in the conduct of public affairs, the right to vote and to be elected, and the right to have access to public service. According to that article, every citizen has the right to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections, which should be by universal and equal suffrage and should be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors.

Unreasonable or discriminatory disqualifying factors, such as educational qualifications, political affiliation or residence, should not be used as a means of excluding particular classes of citizens from elective office, members of the Human Rights Committee emphasized. The Committee affirmed that excessive financial deposits or fees should not be a condition for the exercise of the right to stand for election.

* * *

UNESCO's Director-General has called on nations to invest at least 6 per cent of gross domestic product in education by the end of the century. To this end, he offered the Organization's cooperation for developing education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Director-General Federico Mayor told the 5th Ibero-American Summit in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, that to contribute to the task, UNESCO would organize a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers of education to be held in Jamaica next spring. He said

the meeting could effectively assist in carrying out the agreements adopted at Ibero-American summit. Mr. Mayor noted that education for all is the responsibility of all.

The 5th Ibero-American Summit in San Carlos de Bariloche, brought together heads of State or government from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) has established a rapid-response unit to control and prevent the growing incidence of new and re-emerging diseases around the world. Its purpose is to improve containment of outbreaks, such as the deadly Ebola virus which struck Zaire earlier this year.

The unit will be capable of mobilizing staff from both WHO headquarters in Geneva and from the agency's regional offices. The teams could be placed on-site within 24 hours' notification of an outbreak, together with the supplies and equipment required
to implement epidemic control measures.

The new unit will be called the Division of Emerging, Viral and Bacterial Diseases Surveillance and Control (EMC). In addition to mobilizing WHO's own technical staff and expertise, EMC will also co-ordinate the activities of the agency's traditional partners, including its international network of collaborating centres, bilateral donors, expert advisers and non-governmental organizations.

EMC will work to strengthen country surveillance and disease control mechanisms to enable countries to develop the early-warning systems necessary to detect emerging or re-emerging diseases through innovative field epidemiology and public health laboratory training programmes. The new division will also continue WHO's activities in developing a network of public health laboratories to strengthen regional and international collaboration in outbreak detection and control.

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UNITED NATIONS

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Over one hundred and fifty Heads of State and Government are expected in New York this weekend for special commemorative session of the United Nations.

* There are alarming reports of human rights abuses against non-Serbs from the Banja Luka area, in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

* Secretary-General and Israeli Prime Minister discuss situation in Middle East.

* Queen of Jordan and Secretary-General formally launch International Leadership Academy of the United Nations University.

* Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management says financial situation of United Nations continues to be extremely grave.

* United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO Director-General agree to intensify cooperation to protect and promote human rights.

* Developing countries seek action-oriented Agenda for development providing framework for implementing existing international commitments for development, representative of the Philippines tells Economic and Financial Committee.

* Capability of developing countries to combat crime is seriously hampered by lack of financial resources and technology, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee is told.

* Department of Public Information publishes fact sheet: "Setting the Record Straight".

* * *

More than one hundred and fifty Heads of State and Government are expected in New York this weekend for the special commemorative session of the United Nations. The occasion marks the 50th anniversary of the Organization.

(more)

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When the United Nations was established in 1945, it had 50 members; today there are 185 member states. The special commemorative session begins Sunday with the first speaker being the President of the United States Bill Clinton.

Among other speakers on Sunday will be President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, King Hussein of Jordan, President Nujoma of Namibia, President Castro of Cuba, Prime Minister Brundtland of Norway, Prime Minister Murayama of Japan and Chairman Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A grand total of 204 speakers representing all member states and 19 Observers will take the floor during the three days culminating on the actual 50th anniversary - 24 October. Many member states have drawn up special programmes to observe the anniversary.

There will be a special edition of the Daily Highlights on Sunday. The United Nations News Audio Information System will be continually updated during the three days of the special session, and will carry special items.

* * *

Alarming reports continue to come in of human rights abuses against non-Serbs being evicted from the Banja Luka area, in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to a United Nations spokesman, hundreds of men of fighting age have been separated from their families and taken to unknown locations. There are also reports of murders, rapes, beatings and theft. The spokesman said it was believed that some of the soldiers committing the atrocities were Serbian paramilitaries commanded by the man known as Arkan, who was wanted by INTERPOL for crimes including murder.

According to another account, all Muslims from the town of Bosanka Novi and neighbouring villages were rounded up at the bus station, where draft age men were separated. They were reportedly held there for five days without food or water being provided.

According to the spokesman, there is also concern at the fate of Serb civilians in Croatia's Krajina. After the area was taken by force by the Croatian Army in August, it was mainly vulnerable elderly people who stayed behind. Some have since been killed, or had their houses robbed and looted. There have been numerous reports of the survivors not being given essential medical treatment or even food.

The situation in Serb-held Sector East is very tense, the spokesman continued. Reports from the Sector say the so-called ARSK, or Serb forces, are continuing to develop defensive positions, which in some cases are restricting access to UN observation posts. There is so far no sign of a build up of Croatian troops in the area.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali Friday met with Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin of Israel who is in New York for the commemorative session. A United Nations spokesman said Mr. Rabin thanked the United Nations for the positive contribution of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), especially in Gaza. The Secretary-General said the United Nations system would continue assistance to Palestinians in Gaza.

Later, Prime Minister Rabin told correspondents, that during the meeting with the Secretary-General, they discussed the situation in the Middle East. He said there would be a continuation of the peace process with the Palestinians with the purpose of establishing the interim phase in which the Palestinians would have self-government.

* * *

Queen Noor of Jordan and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today formally launched the International Leadership Academy of the United Nations University (UNU). This is the first United Nations-sponsored global institute of its kind to be established in the Middle-East. The occasion marked the initiation of a new UNU human resource development programme aimed at nurturing future leaders.

The ceremony which took place in the Secretary-General's office at Headquarters was attended by Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan, Abdul Salam Majali, former Prime Minister of Jordan and Hector Gurgulino de Souza, Rector of the UNU. The Governing Council of the UNU decided to establish the Academy in December 1994. Its seat will be at the University of Jordan in Amman. Jordan has pledged to provide $1 million annually for the activities of the Academy.

The Academy aims to create a network of future leaders who will enhance global cooperation through dialogue and inter-cultural exchange and to study conflict resolution through negotiation, democracy, justice and solidarity.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management has said the financial situation of the United Nations continued to be still extremely grave. Speaking to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) on Friday, Under Secretary-General Joseph Connor said a number of Member States had responded positively to the Secretary-General's appeal for payment of assessed contributions.

Since the end of September, additional contributions to the regular

budget amounting to $135 million had been received, including $95 million from the major contributor. This welcome inflow of cash however, was within the amounts anticipated in the cash flow projections for the last quarter of 1995.

Under-Secretary-General Connor said despite the reduction in outstanding contributions to the regular budget, it was still expected that some $240 million would have to be borrowed from peacekeeping operations by year-end to finance the anticipated shortfalls in payments to the regular budget. He said additional payments totalling $228 million had also been received this month for peacekeeping operations. The outstanding amount to that operation is $2.2 billion.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso and UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor have agreed to intensify cooperation to protect and promote human rights. A Memorandum of Understanding signed in Paris Thursday called for consultation and joint action between UNESCO and the High Commission. It also called for increasing cooperation to defend the rights of authors, journalists, teachers, scientists and others related to UNESCO's field of competence, the development of training programmes on human rights, and the preparations for a world conference in 1997 on the elimination of racism, racial and ethnic discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

* * *

The developing countries would like to see an action-oriented Agenda for development which provides the framework for implementing existing international commitments for development. Addressing the Second Committee (Economic and Financial), the representative of the Philippines speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries and China said the Agenda should also stress the need for increased external resources to finance and support economic growth and development and existing development commitments.

The Group of 77 and China felt restoring economic growth issues to the top of the UN agenda and among others creating greater balance in United Nations consideration of development, vis-a-vis peacekeeping and other activities remained an important objective of the agenda.

* * *

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) has been told that the capability of developing countries to combat crime had been seriously hampered by the lack of financial resources and technology. The representative of China said the United Nations and the international community needed to promote the provision of financial and technological

assistance in the fight against crime and drugs. The representative of Bangladesh, calling attention to the need for that assistance, said developing countries are particularly vulnerable to becoming sanctuaries for organized and transnational crime.

* * *

The Department of Public Information (DPI) has published a fact sheet: "Setting the Record Straight - Some Facts About the United Nations at 50". The fact sheet says even as the Organization marks its 50th anniversary, its ability to function was hampered by financial problems. It was clear, according to the fact sheet, that this situation stemmed in part from widespread public misunderstandings about what the United Nations really was and did.

The DPI fact sheet depicts 19 interesting but little known facts - most of them in a comparative setting. Among them:

+ The budget for the UN's core functions - the Secretariat operations in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna and five Regional Commissions - is $1.3 billion a year. This is about 4 per cent of New York City's annual budget and nearly a billion dollars less than the yearly cost of Tokyo's Fire Department.

+ The core functions of the UN require the services of 9,600 people. The Swedish capital of Stockholm, by contrast has 60,000 municipal employees.

+ 60,000 people work in the entire UN system worldwide, which includes the Secretariat and some 30 other organizations such as UNICEF, The World Bank and the IMF. Three times as many people work for McDonald's; Disney World and Disneyland employ 50,000.

+ The United Nations system has the equivalent of less than $1.75 per human being to spend on economic and social development. The world's governments spent about $767 billion in military expenditures in 1994 - the equivalent of $134 per human being.

+ The United States' share of the UN's regular budget is $315 million a year - the equivalent of $1.30 per American. Its contribution to the annual peace-keeping budget is 31% or about $1 billion - less than 0.5 percent of the annual US military budget.

+ For every dollar the US contributes to the New York based United Nations Development Programme, American companies get back $4 in UNDP procurement orders. And the UN, its agencies and the diplomatic and consular corps contribute $3.2 billion a year to the economy of the New York City area alone, according to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The fact sheet is DPI publication No. 1753 of October 1995.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations General Assembly begins special session commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

* Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali urges world leaders to give the United Nations a firm financial base.

* General Assembly President says supporting the UN should be a collective pledge of the special session.

* President Clinton says the United States can be counted on to be in the United Nations for another 50 years and beyond.

* President Yeltsin calls for equality and tolerance among States.

* Cuban President Castro says the ill-use of the Security Council by some States is exhorting a new colonialism within the Organization.

* Sri Lankan President Kumaratunga has great hope in the United Nations for effective collective action to achieve socio-economic development.

* President Nujoma of Namibia says the UN is the only viable forum in which developing and small nations can raise their voices in equality.

* President Gonzalez of Spain, salutes achievements of the United Nations and reiterates commitment to principles and purposes of Charter.

* Prime Minister Bolger of New Zealand calls for new commitment to free the world from nuclear weapons.

* The history of United Nations is intertwined with question of Palestine, PLO Chairman, Yasser Arafat tells assembled world leaders.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

* President Robinson of Ireland proposes steps to transform financial crisis facing United Nations and infuse it with new vigor.

* Mexican President Zedillo says for half a century United Nations has made decisive contribution to avoiding global conflagration and promoting peaceful settlement of disputes.

* Prime Minister Murayama of Japan advocates new development strategy combining policy measures in comprehensive manner.

* Prime Minister Chretien of Canada notes United Nations has struggled against racism and colonialism, disease and illiteracy.

* Draft declaration on 50th anniversary of the UN urges redirection of Organization to greater service to humankind.

* * *

Nearly one hundred and fifty Heads of State and Government have gathered at United Nations Headquarters for the Special Session of the General Assembly commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

The session began with praise for the Organizations's past accomplishments and calls for its democratization and reform. The three-day session runs until Tuesday night.

Thirty-eight Heads of State or Government were among the speakers who took the floor during the morning and afternoon meetings on the first day of the special commemorative session.

At a special luncheon in honour of the assembled Heads of State and Government attending the special session, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said fifty years of experience proved that the United Nations was the essential world organization of the future. The record of the United Nations showed that it could foresee problems; it could forecast solutions; it could not always be successful, but it would be essential, of that there could be no doubt.

President William J. Clinton, speaking on behalf of the host country said the United States still treasured the opportunity to host the United Nations. He hoped that the next fifty years would be an even richer, more profoundly successful endeavour because of what had been learned by working together in the last half-century.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has called on world leaders to give the United Nations a firm financial base. In his opening statement to the special commemorative session, the Secretary-General urged that if steps towards this end could not be set in motion by the end of the year, serious consideration should be given to calling a special session to deal with the financial crisis of the Organization.

The United Nations, the Secretary-General said, could help solve the problems created by the dialectic of globalization and fragmentation because it was designed to respond to both global concerns and the needs of Member States. It had dealt for 50 years with those two forces.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the commemorative session was a time for the leaders of the world to consider what it was they wanted from the United Nations.

* * *

General Assembly President Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral said supporting the United Nations should be the collective pledge of this Special Session. He said reforming the United Nations should be the political commitment during the three days. The Organization could not be allowed to die at the hands of its critics, nor to perish for the lack of commitment of its supporters.

Please tell the world that freedom, justice, development and human solidarity are magnificent values worth living and working for, the Assembly President said.

* * *

United States President William J. Clinton, taking the floor as the first speaker, said while the United Nations had not ended war, it had made it less likely to occur. He told the gathered world leaders that the United Nations had helped many nations to turn from war to peace. The United Nations, he added, had not stopped human suffering, but it had healed the wounds and lengthened the lives of millions of human beings.

The United Nations had not been all that it was wished it would be, but it had been a force for good and a bulwark against evil, Mr. Clinton said. At the dawn of a new century so full of promise, yet plagued by peril, the United Nations was still needed. President Clinton concluded that while the United Nations had not banished repression or poverty from the earth, it had advanced the cause of freedom and prosperity on every continent.

* * *

President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation warned that there was a dangerous tendency to downplay the role of the United Nations, to circumvent its Charter and the collective will of the Security Council. He said the world more than ever needed not only equality and tolerance, but respect for the identity of each State.

Mr. Yeltsin said the United Nations could and should become the main instrument for building new international relations. It had all the necessary powers to do so. President Yeltsin said to carry out this mission, it should be provided with appropriate means including financial resources. Russia met and would continue to meet its obligations to the United Nations.

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Cuban President Fidel Castro questioned the privilege of the veto enjoyed by some members of the Security Council. He said the ill-use of the Security Council by the powerful, was exalting a new colonialism within the Organization. Latin America and Africa did not have one single permanent member in the Security Council. President Castro said in Asia, India had a population of almost 1 billion, but it did not enjoy that responsibility.

President Castro said, "We lay claim to a world of peace, justice and dignity where everyone, without exception, has the right to well-being and life."

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The President of Sri Lanka said her country had great hope in the United Nations for effective collective action to achieve its central aim of socio-economic development, thereby ensuring social stability and peace for its people. However, Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said the new agenda of the United Nations with its heavy emphasis on peacekeeping operations had impacted adversely on the development process.

As a developing country, Sri Lanka attached great importance to the role which the United Nations could, and must perform in advancing the development process. The effective strengthening of the United Nations system was an essential requisite for advancing its goals. The Organization had regrettably, she said, sometimes come to be seen by the more vulnerable States as primarily serving the interests of the more powerful States.

* * *

Namibian President Sam Nujoma said while the United Nations was far from perfect, it was the only truly viable forum in which developing and small nations could raise their voices on the basis of equality. He said the

organization stood at the centre of multilateral diplomacy and cooperation and therefore, should be the starting point. He called on the international community to rededicate itself to the unfinished business of the United Nations.

Mr. Nujoma said during the next 50 years and beyond, the United Nations should stress interdependence, equity and fair play among nations and peoples in order to remove the ever-widening gap between the rich North and poor South. Mr. Nujoma said the future belonged to the youth and children. The collective duty must be to reinforce their vision for a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous future in the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation.

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President Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, speaking as President of the European Council saluted the achievements of the United Nations and reiterated commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter. He said the universality of the United Nations reinforced its role as a centre for harmonizing the efforts to advance in this path.

The Spanish President said today's world could not be conceived without considering the contribution of the United Nations to the process of decolonization, to environment and development issues, and to the consecration of innovative concepts such as the common heritage of mankind.

* * *

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, James Bolger called for a new commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. He said several States had abandoned their nuclear capability while others are making significant reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Bolger said against that background, New Zealand found it inexplicable and unacceptable that two states were still testing nuclear weapons. Continued nuclear explosions sent all the wrong signals. What was needed, he said, was a strategy to achieve the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. It was not an impossible goal.

* * *

The history of the United Nations was intertwined with the question of Palestine, the Chairman of the of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberations Organization (PLO) told the assembled world leaders. The history and resolutions of the Organization constituted a permanent, legal, political and moral responsibility, he added.

* * *

Speaking at the Sunday afternoon session, President Mary Robinson of Ireland proposed a number of steps to transform the financial crisis facing the United Nations and infuse it with new vigor.

She told the General Assembly the first must be finance, to save the UN from grinding to a halt due to lack of it. The Security Council should examine, clarify and codify its procedures for undertaking and running peacekeeping operations and enforcement action.

* * *

Mexican President Dr. Ernesto Zedillo said it recognized that for half a century the United Nations had made a decisive contribution to avoiding a global conflagration and to promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes. President Zedillo said serious problems persisted which were at the root of conflicts that gave rise to confrontations in the past.

Also for that reason, the President of Mexico said the United Nations must be strengthened as the principal universal forum for dialogue and peace, for security and cooperation among peoples, and for ensuring that the relations among States were governed by international law. The United Nations must be the forum for achieving a world free from the nuclear threat.

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Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama of Japan advocated a new development strategy that focused on combining various policy measures in a comprehensive manner. The Japanese Prime Minister told the Assembly that his country also stood ready to play an even more expanded role in the concept of sustainable development, the promotion of democracy and economic reform and extending a broad range of economic cooperation to meet global challenges.

Japan also stood ready to cooperate more actively for peace in such areas as humanitarian assistance, preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping operations, and arms control and disarmament with regard to nuclear weapons as well as conventional weapons, such as anti-personnel landmines and small arms. It was time, he said that efforts toward the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons were accelerated.

* * *

The Prime Minister of Canada Jean Chretien noted that the United Nations had struggled against racism and colonialism, disease and illiteracy. But, he added, its work was far from finished. He said while there was much more to

do, the United Nations itself was under attack, through the current financial crisis caused by too many States not paying their dues on time and in full.

But finances were only a symptom of a deeper crisis, the Canadian Prime Minister said. There was a growing belief that nations could not work together effectively on issues of common concern. Some argued that global approaches were too complex. Others said the UN was too expensive -- and not worth the cost. These arguments betrayed a lack of confidence in the future. And Canada would have none of it. Today, even more than 50 years ago, was truly one world. More than ever, the United Nations was needed. It was needed to maintain international stability and order. It was needed to tackle problems that did not respect borders - aids, drugs, terrorism.

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A six-part draft declaration urging a redirection of the United Nations to greater service to humankind, especially to those who are suffering and are deeply deprived, has been approved by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations fiftieth anniversary. The draft is to be submitted to world leaders now gathered here at the United Nations headquarters, for adoption on Tuesday 24 October -- exactly 50 years after the Charter of the Organization entered into force.

The text focusses on peace, development, equality, justice and the United Nations Organization. By its provisions, member states and observers would reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter and pledge to give to the 21st century, a United Nations equipped, financed and structured to serve effectively, the peoples in whose name it was established.

An entire section of the draft is devoted to the United Nations Organization. It states that in order to respond to future challenges, the United Nations must be reformed and modernized. The Security Council should be expanded and its working methods reviewed to strengthen, and enhance its representative character and improve working efficiency and transparency.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York
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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Africa will develop with or without foreign aid, President of Uganda tells General Assembly special commemorative meeting.

* South African President says United Nations must reassess its role, redefine its profile and reshape its structures.

* United Nations affirms universal conscience through legal instruments and programmes of action, French President says.

* Brazilian President says now is time to renew Organization, citing end of ideological confrontation and growing convergence of values.

* General Assembly must be highest authority of United Nations, President of Viet Nam stresses.

* United Nations needs new focus on efficiency and modernized scale of assessments, United Kingdom Prime Minister states.

* Prime Minister of Bangladesh says preserving security of small and weak States requires strengthening rule of law.

* German Foreign Minister says mankind must succeed or fail together, citing unbridged gap between rich and poor.

* Foreign Minister of Egypt warns existence of double standards undermines credibility of international order.

* Secretary-General has meetings with President of United States and Prime Minister of United Kingdom at Headquarters.

* High Commissioner for Human Rights announces new measures to strengthen human rights activities in former Yugoslavia.

* Arrangements for establishment of Rwanda Commission of Inquiry are complete, Secretary-General reports.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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The General Assembly today continued its series of special meetings commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The first speaker of the day, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda, said Africa would develop with or without foreign aid. While aid was an obligation for the West to compensate for the plunder of the continent in the past, it was not a sine qua non of development. He stressed that the greatest structural constraint on Africa's growth in the last 35 years had been the phenomenon of state intervention in business.

President Museveni said the answer to structural distortion was: democratic governance; a liberal economic policy that gave maximum freedom to entrepreneurs; universal education; infrastructure, especially roads, utilities and health facilities; and regional integration of markets, to stimulate economies. He went on to say that many of the tragedies in Africa had been caused by a confluence of foreign meddling and local opportunism. He commended the United Nations for its role in maintaining peace in the last 50 years.

* * *

The President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, said statespersons must dare to think that what they were about was people -- the proverbial man and woman in the street. "These -- the poor, the hungry, the victims of petty tyrants, the objectives of policy -- demand change," he continued. It was necessary to ensure that no one enjoyed lesser rights, that no one was tormented because they were born different, held contrary political views or prayed to God in a different manner. "For no one, in the North or the South, can escape the cold fact that we are a single humanity."

The United Nations had to reassess its role, redefine its profile and reshape its structures, President Mandela stressed. It should reflect diversity and ensure equality among nations, particularly in the Security Council. The agenda and programme of action for the next century could be true to the purposes of the Organization only if set by all. "We must, without delay, constitute a new leadership for the new age, and bring sunshine into the hearts of billions, including women, the disabled and children," he concluded.

* * *

The President of France, Jacques Chirac, today expressed his country's confidence in and commitment to the United Nations. He told the Special Commemorative meeting of the Assembly that the Organization affirmed a universal conscience that was reflected in legal instruments and programmes of action. Its irreplaceable nature was most marked in the vast area of human rights and solidarity among peoples. He emphasized France's commitment to

genuine disarmament and to the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty in 1996. Once its final series of nuclear tests was completed, France would sign the protocols to the Rarotonga Treaty establishing a denuclearized zone in the South Pacific.

The aims of the Charter had lost none of their relevance over the last fifty years, Mr. Chirac continued. Peace and disarmament, democracy and development, the furtherance of human rights and the fight against the scourges that threatened mankind had been asserted as a body of common values. Now, Member States must focus their efforts on adapting and renewing the Organization, primarily by giving it the resources to operate. He added that the Security Council should be made more representative, with the inclusion of Germany, Japan and some large States from the South as permanent members.

* * *

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil stressed that now was the time to renew the United Nations. The international agenda was free from the tensions of ideological confrontation, and was characterized by a growing convergence of values, with democracy, economic freedom and social justice at centre stage. The Organization would always play an irreplaceable role in international peace and security.

All countries should contribute to make sure that the United Nations had the means to carry out the tasks entrusted to it, he stressed. It was unacceptable that the Organization was undergoing its most serious financial crisis precisely when the leaders of the world had gathered to reaffirm their commitment to its Charter. The international community was celebrating the fiftieth anniversary with an underlying feeling of ambiguity as the United Nations had to resort to expediency to cover its huge deficits. Brazil was committed to fighting for a stronger, more active Organization.

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The President of Viet Nam, Le Duc Anh, said the purposes and principles of the United Nations constituted the common values of all mankind. Adherence to such values was all the more important when international exchanges were intensifying. Paradoxically, just when mankind had acquired the technology to reduce the distance between Earth and other celestial bodies, the gap between the rich and the poor had widened. Having experienced famine and decades of war and embargo, Viet Nam empathized with the sufferings of other peoples. It joined the call for the international community to strive for the universal enjoyment of the fundamental rights to peace, equality and development.

The United Nations could boast remarkable achievements in the maintenance of international peace and security, decolonization, and the promotion of environmental, cultural, educational and humanitarian activities, he continued. However, the Organization itself should be revitalized. The

General Assembly must be the highest authority of the United Nations, responsible for questions related to international peace and security, cooperation for development and other global issues. United Nations agencies also needed renovating, and should be made to operate more effectively, with greater dynamism and transparency, within the framework of the Charter and General Assembly resolutions.

* * *

Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom said his country was the largest contributor of peace-keepers, with over 8,000 troops serving in Bosnia alone. The United Nations needed to look ahead to confront challenges to peace and deal more effectively with the root causes of crises. It should encourage democratic and accountable government, reduce poverty and protect the environment, and tackle the evils of international crime, drug-trafficking and terrorism. That was a demanding agenda which required a properly financed and efficient Organization.

The United Nations must be reformed in order to succeed, as future threats would come more from inertia than from change, the Prime Minister said. The Organization was spread too wide, with too much waste and duplication by different bodies. It should improve planning, manning and financing of peace-keeping, as well as the machinery for pre-empting conflicts. Member States should not enjoy representation without taxation, he stressed. Contributions should be paid promptly and in full, with arrears cleared. That action should be accompanied by a new focus on efficiency, and by modernizing assessments to reflect the changing capacity of countries to pay. The General Assembly should hold a special session next year to address those issues.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh stressed her country's unswerving commitment to the United Nations, and support for the reform and restructuring of its main organs. She said it was ironic that when so many world leaders had gathered to solemnly pledge their commitment to the Charter, crucial decisions on mankind's destiny were being made by a handful of countries. Strengthening the rule of law was critical to preserving the security of smaller and weaker States. That required an enhanced role for the International Court of Justice, with measures for compulsory jurisdiction or arbitration through the Court.

More than 40 million people in Bangladesh were facing poverty and destruction due to the loss of the Ganges waters following India's unilateral withdrawal at Farakka, the Prime Minister went on to say. While the withdrawal of water in the dry season caused drought, its release in excessive amounts in the rainy season created severe floods. The Farakka Barrage had become an issue of life and death. "As the whole world voices concern for the

protection of the environment and human rights, at that very moment a big part of Bangladesh's population is being pushed to the threshold of poverty and destruction," she concluded. "This is a gross violation of human rights and justice."

* * *

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said history did not always follow the straight path of reason, but it sometimes provided near-miraculous opportunities. One such unique gift was the ending of the East-West conflict. That freed the world from the fear of a nuclear inferno and gave nations new opportunities for self-determination, peaceful cooperation and sustainable development. However, many of those opportunities remained unfulfilled because the gap between rich and poor had not been bridged.

"Never was it so abundantly clear that the only choice open to mankind is to succeed together or fail together," Mr. Kinkel continued. "And that is why we must renew and strengthen the covenant of San Francisco, the covenant for peace, human rights and development, for the joint survival of the human race." He stressed that the world had no alternative to the United Nations. In order to overcome its financial and structural crisis, the Organization needed the support, and not only the criticism, of its Member States.

* * *

Foreign Minister Amre Moussa of Egypt said much had been achieved in the past 50 years. Within the framework of the United Nations, decolonization had been brought about and apartheid ended. Despite such successes, hegemony, aggression, racial discrimination and religious intolerance still beset the world. The widening gap between North and South portended a global division between rich and poor. The world still suffered from the existence of nuclear weapons and the continuation of nuclear practices on the one hand, and a lack of resolve when dealing with human rights on the other. It was in these two areas that serious inequities in the present and emerging world orders appeared -- namely double standards.

Mr. Moussa warned that humanity was poised on a powder keg that was about to explode. It was therefore necessary to build up the credibility of the international order so as to instill confidence among peoples everywhere. "When we talk about peace, let us truly mean it; when we talk about development, let us put it into effect; when we talk about human rights, let us refrain from resorting to double standards; and when we talk about disarmament, let us include all under the present binding international regimes, without exception."

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday at Headquarters with United States President William Clinton, according to a United Nations spokesman. They had a broad exchange of views on world issues, including the situations in Haiti, Angola, Guatemala, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

The Secretary-General and the President dealt with the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and expressed the hope that a peaceful settlement would soon be achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also discussed the financial crisis of the United Nations and reviewed recent positive developments in the Middle East. President Clinton expressed strong support for the continuum of major conferences held by the United Nations.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali today had a meeting with United Kingdom Prime Minister John Major, which was devoted entirely to the Organization's financial crisis. Mr. Major said his country would continue to work with Sweden on the review of the scale of assessments, and reiterated his view that all Member States should pay their contributions in full and on time.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, has announced a series of new measures designed to strengthen human rights activities in the former Yugoslavia. He made the announcement in a statement to the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva last week.

Mr. Ayala Lasso said he intended to: establish a dialogue with interested partners -- governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, European organizations and non-governmental organizations -- to develop a comprehensive human rights action plan for the former Yugoslavia; increase the presence of human rights staff in Zagreb, Mostar, Sarajevo and Skopje; and hold discussions with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on the establishment of a continuous human rights presence throughout the Republic.

"As we move towards peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerted and determined efforts will have to be deployed by the international community to ensure respect for human rights," he continued. "Gross and massive violations have characterized and indeed fuelled the conflict. As High Commissioner for Human Rights, I consider it essential that human rights constitute a pillar of the reconstruction effort."

(more)

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Arrangements for the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate reports of arms transfers to former Rwandan government forces have been completed, according to the Secretary-General. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 20 October, he said the Commission would consist of six members: Ambassador Mahmoud Kassem, Egypt (Chairman); Inspector Jean-Michel Hanssens, Canada; Colonel Jurgen Almeling, Germany; Lt. Colonel Jan Meijvogel, Netherlands; Brigadier Mujahid Alam, Pakistan; Colonel Lamek Mutanda, Zimbabwe.

A United Nations spokesman said the members of the Commission were expected to assemble in New York on 30 October. They were expected to depart for Kigali on 2 November to begin their work. The Commission would be supported by a small support staff, including a legal expert and a security officer.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* General Assembly concludes special commemorative meeting after adopting Declaration urging redirection of United Nations to greater service to humankind.

* Development is new name for peace, President of Guatemala tells General Assembly.

* President of China says countries must be allowed to choose their own social systems without interference by others.

* Maintenance of peace is supreme goal of United Nations, Bosnian President states.

* Chairman of Liberian Council of State says affluent countries must act to establish new economic order for benefit of all.

* Mankind must never again witness horrors of genocide or ethnic cleansing, President of Rwanda stresses.

* Prime Minister of Pakistan says principles of equal rights and self-determination lie at heart of Charter.

* Israel is committed to bringing peace to entire Middle East region, Prime Minister says.

* Amir of Kuwait says global confidence in United Nations is rising, but limitations must be recognized.

* Haitian President says United Nations helped bring about political miracle in restoring democracy to Haiti.

* Unipolar world has left mechanisms of United Nations at service of narrow self-interest, Vice-President of Iraq says.

* Prime Minister of Sweden says unwillingness of some Members to pay United Nations dues reflects crisis in multilateralism.

* Developing countries must be adequately represented in Security Council, Indian Prime Minister states.

* Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and Grenadines says regions with proven economic potential should have Security Council seat.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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The General Assembly today concluded its series of special meetings commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations by urging a redirection of the Organization to greater service to humankind, especially to those who were suffering and were deeply deprived. It took that action by adopting, by acclamation, a six-part Declaration 50 years after the United Nations Charter entered into force.

By the provisions of the Declaration, Member States and observers reaffirmed the purposes and principles of the Charter and their commitments to them. They stated their determination that the United Nations of the future would work with renewed vigour and effectiveness in promoting peace, development, equality and justice and understanding among the peoples of the world. They also pledged to give to the twenty-first century a United Nations equipped, financed and structured to serve effectively the peoples in whose name it had been established.

The preamble to the Declaration stated that the United Nations had been born out of the sufferings caused by the Second World War. The determination, enshrined in the Charter, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war was as vital today as it had been 50 years ago. It gave expression to the common values and aspirations of humankind.

In his closing statement, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the success of the special commemorative meeting showed that the United Nations had the support of the citizens of the world and their leaders. He paid tribute to all who had made the extraordinary event possible, including the Preparatory Committee and the United Nations staff.

General Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral (Portugal) expressed great satisfaction at the success of the meeting. There could be no greater testimony to the worth of the United Nations than that given by the presence of so many world leaders in New York. It was now time to face the urgent financial crisis and lay the foundations of a strong, efficient and visionary Organization for the future.

* * *

President Ramiro de Leon Carpio of Guatemala told the General Assembly today that universal representation should prevail at the United Nations, without any kind of exclusion. Peace was not just the absence of war, it also had economic and social components. Development was the new name for peace. The least developed countries sought merely to compete under fair conditions. Their products should have access to markets, without being subject to unjustifiable objections or classifications. It would never be possible to bring peace unless the national policies of the most powerful

countries were promptly transformed to allow poor countries to attain true independence and the sovereign equality to which they were fully entitled.

Institutional legality and democracy had been strengthened in Guatemala, the President continued. Through the democratic process corrupt members of Congress and the Supreme Court had been removed from office. Guatemalans had suffered from an internal conflict that raged for 35 years. For that reason, Guatemala appealed to the international community to support the ongoing peace process with the open hand of solidarity in the political and economic fields. The guns must fall silent.

* * *

President Jiang Zemin of China said that by relying on its Member States, the United Nations had done much to mitigate regional conflicts, eradicate colonialism, expedite arms reduction and promote peace, cooperation and development. Given its role in the world, no other international organization or country bloc could substitute for it. As history moved forward, any country that sought hegemony was doomed to failure. There should be no attempts to make up excuses for interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. They should be allowed to pursue the social systems that they chose for themselves. The principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-aggression should be observed.

As a member of the international community, China could not stand separate from the rest of the world, the President went on to say. Even as it became stronger and more developed it would not seek hegemony or threaten anyone. It would help to maintain international peace and stability. There was only one China in the world and Taiwan was an inalienable part of Chinese territory, he stressed. The peaceful reunification of the two sides of the Taiwan straits was sought by the entire Chinese people, including those in Taiwan. The Chinese people had the ability, the resourcefulness and confidence to overcome any interference and make the reunification of their motherland a reality.

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President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina said the United Nations had always been a source of hope, but also a constant cause of disappointment. He stressed that the supreme goal was the maintenance of peace. The Organization had succeeded in preventing global conflict, but it had proved less effective in stopping local conflicts. The United Nations had acted effectively in stopping the Gulf crisis, but had not been as successful in dealing with the aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Bosnian people approached the upcoming peace talks with the best of faith and plenty of hope, the President continued. They had not started the war, and although they were winning, they did not dream of being victors of

war. They had always worked towards peace and wanted to be victors in peace. The Bosnian people wanted to create a society based on political and ethnic pluralism, respect for human rights, and private enterprise. The Bosnian Government and Army would not accept the division of their country, in whatever packaging it might be served. The division of Bosnia and Herzegovina would lead to the continuation of war, sooner or later, he warned.

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Wilton Sankawulo, Chairman of the Council of State of the Liberian National Transitional Government, expressed the hope that the nations of the world, especially the affluent ones, would act to establish a new economic order that would improve the quality of life for all peoples. Not doing so would be an act of non-compliance with the United Nations Charter, which mandated the use of international machinery to promote the economic and social advancement of all nations. The Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace and Agenda for Development provided a framework for implementing the principles contained in the Charter.

Liberia supported the international call for reform in the restructuring of the United Nations, he said. "This vital institution must continue evolving and growing in an enlightened fashion, but always within the limits of the principles enshrined in the Charter." He appealed to Member States to help end the Liberian conflict by supporting the disarmament and demobilization of fighters; the repatriation of displaced persons and refugees; and the social and economic reconstruction of the nation. He hoped that all Member States would make substantial pledges at the conference on Liberia to be held on 27 October.

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The President of Rwanda, Pasteur Bizimungu, said the proclamation of the noble objectives of the United Nations and their implementation reflected double standards on many occasions. Even though the Charter stipulated the self-determination and sovereignty of nations, colonized peoples often had to resort to armed struggle to restore their freedom. After independence, the dominant Powers maintained their influence on many new States. Such independence was a sham, in which the strategy of divide and rule was still applied and the relationship was still that of dominator and dominated.

The horrendous genocide that took place in Rwanda last year was a direct consequence of such factors, the President continued. Colonialism introduced racist theories and initiated discrimination in Rwanda. The first ethnic massacre engineered by the authorities occurred in 1959 while the country was still under colonial rule. Were it not for external influences intended to divide them, Rwandans would easily resolve their problems. However, the planners of genocide were welcomed in some capitals as heroes. They were being re-armed while they prevented refugees from returning home. "This is

not only a violation of international conventions, but also reflects moral decay." He went on to say that mankind should never again witness the horrors of genocide or ethnic cleansing.

* * *

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan said the principles of equal rights and self-determination lay at the heart of the United Nations Charter. Millions in Asia owed their freedom to the pursuit of those noble ideals. There had been no global conflict in the last 50 years and that noble achievement was being celebrated today. She applauded the Organization's humanitarian work and peace-keeping interventions, to which Pakistan's sons had contributed with their blood. She also welcomed United Nations efforts to focus on social development and women.

The Secretary-General had described the Kashmir dispute as one of the oldest items on the United Nations agenda, the Prime Minister continued. Forty-eight years of occupation had not crushed the spirit of a noble people committed to the right to self-determination and the ideals of the United Nations. Those people were placing their hopes in the Organization's promise to hold a plebiscite to determine their future. "Do not close your hearts, your minds and your ears to the torment of Kashmir."

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Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel said the United Nations existed in order to realize the words of the prophet Isiah: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." He stressed that he was speaking as a representative of the entire Jewish people, including those for whom the creation of the United Nations had come too late -- the six million Jews whose lives had been turned into ashes. "We will never let them be forgotten."

The Jewish people would not forget their benefactors in the United Nations who had given them the opportunity for independence 48 years ago, the Prime Minister continued. However, hurtful and unjust decisions had also been taken in the General Assembly Hall, including the resolution equating Zionism with racism. "Many ideologies and revolutions have failed and faded away. But it is Zionism which brought the Jewish people to its historic homeland. Zionism succeeded." He expressed gratitude for the Organization's support for the Middle East peace process. "The road is still long -- we still have a long way to go. However, I can promise you that we are determined to continue until we have brought peace to the entire region."

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The Amir of Kuwait, Sheik Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, acknowledged the vital role played by the United Nations in backing his country in the face of aggression. He also expressed the hope that such support would continue until the relevant Security Council resolutions had been implemented in full. Global confidence in the United Nations was rising, and he trusted that the Organization would become even more effective in confronting mankind's problems in the next century. That would consolidate the values of benevolence, cooperation and interdependence for the benefit of all human beings.

"At the same time, we have to be realistic and recognize that the United Nations is not and cannot be a miracle worker," the Amir went on to say. In order to appreciate the Organization's immense achievements, it was necessary to make a fair and balanced review not only of its political performance, but also of its delivery in the areas of development, culture, social affairs and health. He highlighted the work done by specialized agencies on behalf of developing countries. Kuwait recognized its share of responsibility for furthering the goals of the Organization, and reaffirmed its commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter.

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The President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations had a special significance for his country -- it was also an occasion for Haitians to celebrate the first anniversary of the return of democracy. A political miracle had occurred on 15 October 1994 thanks to the courage of the Haitian people, the leadership of the United States President, the contribution of the Secretary-General and the assistance of the entire United Nations. Peace had been reestablished, the economy was growing and people were being educated.

By the year 2050, the world's population would have increased to 10 billion, the President continued. It was necessary to prepare a better world for those people at the end of the millennium. By doing so, the United Nations would surround itself with glory, pride and peace.

* * *

The Vice-President of Iraq, Taha Marouf, said the United Nations had achieved some memorable successes, including eradicating colonialism, assisting liberation movements and laying the foundations for international law. However, the cold war had cast a shadow over the Organization. In the last five years, the world had had to adopt to a unipolar world. That had given rise to double standards which put the mechanisms of the United Nations at the service of narrow self-interest. Sanctions had been applied on the

basis of an extreme interpretation of the Charter, depriving people of their basic human rights.

The comprehensive sanctions against Iraq had resulted in thousands of deaths due to lack of food and medicine, the Vice-President went on to say. It was now necessary to enhance the democratic process within the United Nations and to enforce mechanisms for the political settlement of disputes. It was also necessary to reform the Security Council and its working methods to enable it to respond to the interests of the overwhelming majority of States.

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The Prime Minister of Sweden, Ingvar Carlsson, said his Government sought radical reform of the governance and financing of the multilateral system. "But we will never allow reform to become a fig-leaf for cut-downs and cop-outs." The necessary changes would not come about by themselves. There was a need for a mechanism, a process which would allow for a thorough discussion of all constructive ideas and proposals that had come up, inside and outside the Organization.

Nowhere was the crisis in multilateralism more apparent than in the unwillingness of some Member States to contribute, the Prime Minister stressed. "They want more and more from our common Organization. Yet, these countries are not willing to pay their membership fees. That is simply not acceptable." The time had come to seriously discuss alternative methods of financing the United Nations system, including the possibilities of an international tax on foreign currency transactions and of introducing charges for the use of common global resources, such as sea-lanes or ocean fishing areas.

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The Prime Minister of India, P.V. Narasimha Rao, said that critics of the United Nations concentrated upon its failures. However, on an objective appraisal, the Organization remained humankind's beacon of hope. If its relevance was to continue, the root causes of humankind's afflictions must be addressed: nuclear weapons; poverty and under-development; international terrorism; and fundamentalist trends based on exclusivism and intolerance.

The United Nations now included many more independent, sovereign States than 50 years ago, the Prime Minister noted. In such a context, it could not afford to be seen as either exclusivist or incomplete, either in appearance or outlook. In particular, developing countries should have an adequate presence in the Security Council based on objective criteria. All nations must feel that their stakes in global peace and prosperity were factored into the Organization's decision-making.

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The Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sir James Fitz-Allen Mitchell, stressed that the United Nations should not be only a place for the wealthy. All regions should be recognized, including Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, although countries should be able to secure a place on an individual basis. Evolving regions which had demonstrated their economic potential should, among themselves, have a permanent seat in the Security Council.

The celebration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary would not have been so worthy a cause if the evils of communism had not been put to rest, the Prime Minister went on to say. "We still await atonement by those who imposed such monumental waste on our civilization." As the birth place of Christianity, Judaism and the Muslim faith, Jerusalem should become an international city under the umbrella of the United Nations. "I see this as a way to peace among the believers. I see this as an idea to erode the terrorism that haunts much of our everyday life around the world."

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